12. (Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said fibers further comprise pulp fibers.

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16. (Amended) A nonwoven web as defined in claim 1, wherein said polymeric fibers comprise multicomponent fibers.

27. (Amended) A nonwoven web comprising extruded polymeric fibers, said nonwoven web having a first end and a second and opposite end, said nonwoven web comprising a spunbond web, a meltblown web or a coform web, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight, said first and second areas being located on said web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being at least 1.5 times greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard, the web being compressed and thermally bonded together.

35. (Amended) A laminate comprising:

a first layer comprising a substrate; and

a nonwoven web adhered to said substrate, said nonwoven web having a first end and a second and opposite end, said nonwoven web comprising thermoplastic or elastomeric fibers, said nonwoven web defining first areas having a first basis weight and second areas having a second basis weight located on said nonwoven web according to a predetermined pattern, said first basis weight being greater than said second basis weight, said first basis weight and said second basis weight ranging from about 0.2 ounces per square yard to about 9 ounces per square yard, the web being compressed and thermally bonded together.